

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

0936

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko

Notetakers: Brad Mynatt, Bob Schubert,
Tom Hall, Thomas Robertson

DATE, TIME February 5, 2002, 7:37 - 7:57 a.m., EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Vladimir, good morning. (U)

President Putin: Good afternoon, George. (U)

The President: How are you doing, sir? I just wanted to call and check in. Thank you for sending your Prime Minister here. We had a very good visit. (U)

President Putin: Thank you. Thank you for receiving him. (U)

The President: I wanted to tell you what I told him. One, I am really looking forward to going to Moscow. It is going to be a highlight of my Presidency. Secondly, I do want to have some constructive papers to sign starting with our mutual desire to come up with a paper to codify our offensive agreement. I also want to tell you that we are working hard to get rid of Jackson-Vanik. That would be a very positive thing to declare while I am on your soil. And I hope, by the time we get there, that it is very clear to the world that our desires for a NATO-at-20 have been achieved. It is clear that what you and I discussed, and what you and Tony Blair have discussed has become a reality for NATO. And finally, I hope that we are able to make some very positive statements about our economic relationship. I want to congratulate you on your continued progress on your economy. I hope that we can continue to push hard for continued cooperation

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Stephen E. Biegun
Reason: 1.5(d)
Declassify on: 2/5/12

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

on the economic front. I think that would be a very important message for both our countries. And then, I am also looking forward to having the Afghanistan working group. Your guys are coming here to work with Armistage. It's important to move forward there. I told Mr. Karzai, when I saw him, that I would mention to you that I am confident Russia and Afghanistan can set up a good relationship. He wants to have relations with Russia. I told Karzai that he needs to get to know you, as I found you to be a good man. He is a good man. Anyway, that is why I am calling, friend, and also to hear your voice. (C)

President Putin: George, thank you very much for calling, and to be frank myself, I missed talking to you and I wanted to call you. I followed very intensively on the television your statements to Congress, your State of the Nation Address. I also read it carefully and I would like to congratulate you on this statement. It was, of course, a major event in the life of your country, and I would like to say the speech made a great impression both in terms of content and emotion. (C)

The President: Thank you. (U)

President Putin: Although, some things that were mentioned raise doubts among diplomats. We have discussed a lot with you, and we have talked a lot about Iraq. And, we have discussed various financial arrangements and mechanisms that have to do with Iraq. You know, perhaps, that I discussed these problems at length with Chancellor Schroeder. The Germans appear to have a number of ideas concerning the establishment of a financial pool to assist Russia in eliminating chemical and nuclear weapons, to strengthen security in arms control, and environmental protection. And if you maintain your position, that you have not changed it, I would ask that you give instructions to your Ministry of Finance people to get in touch with our Ministry of Finance people. (C)

The President: I would be glad to do that, Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: Thank you, George. And I think that we need to give a boost to our experts to push hard and prepare the documents that you suggested on offensive arms agreements. This will get our experts, our specialists, military and civilian, to maintain contacts and work hard on this. There is one problem here that I would like to draw your attention to. I am under the impression that this important issue you referred to, Russia-NATO relations, is marking time, so to speak. And I have a feeling that without further impetus, further impulse from the President of the United States, we will not be able to move in that area. Of course the Blair initiative, I think, will not be enough without you expressing firmly your position as the leading nation of the Western Bloc. There are some problems with the smaller

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

3

nations, but we have to work hard to eliminate those concerns. I think that we could succeed in that; however, without your firm position I do not think that we will be able to move any further on this issue before your trip. (S)

The President: Yes, Vladimir. Let me say that I hope, prior to my arrival, we have got something very positive with NATO-at-20. I think, first of all, you need to know Russia's role with NATO is a very important part for our foreign policy mix, it's important for our bilateral relations, but also for NATO and how it works with Russia. This is an important initiative, and I will again turn up the heat, not only on our people at NATO, but with Secretary Powell, who I will talk to in about an hour. I will push to get this thing done. It is a priority of mine, and I know it is a priority of yours. (S)

President Putin: Everybody is now watching, looking at the United States' position on this issue. There is something I did not want to say at this point, particularly over the phone, but some partners believe that we should not do this, or go this way, because entering into this agreement on NATO-at-20 we will help breathe new life into NATO. And, of course, there are some other people, on the other hand, that say by establishing these arrangements, there will be a threat of NATO destabilizing from inside. Of course, this is not true, but we have to find some golden means. Anyway, without a clear and firm position by the United States, it will be impossible to resolve the issue. We would like to see it resolved as soon as possible. A couple of words on another issue, and I am referring to the economic issue. I think our relations on this are going fairly well. I have read with great interest the energy strategy, as prepared by Vice President Cheney, and we will actively consider this initiative. It is very promising. And, of course, we do hope very much that the Jackson-Vanik can be revoked before your arrival, as well as the market economy question. As regards to Mr. Karzai, we are prepared to support him actively. I gave proper instructions to my Foreign Minister Ivanov, to invite Mr. Karzai to Moscow. We are ready to develop relations with Afghanistan, and we will extend all the necessary political support to Karzai and his government, and we will also try to encourage our companies, the business community, to cooperate on Afghanistan, so we can provide some sort of economic support, although not of a large scale to Mr. Karzai's government. So, that is what I would like to tell you. (S)

The President: Okay, Vladimir, I hear you loud and clear, and I understand completely. We will have further conversations before my arrival. I am confident we will have a great visit, but we want to have concrete results of our relationship that will show

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

4

(the world we have a platform for strengthening peace. So thank you for your phone call, and give your family my best. (S)

President Putin: Thank you, George. Thank you for calling. We saw Laura during your statement in Congress and I must tell you she looked great, so please give her greetings from me and Lyudmila. We are looking forward to seeing you in Moscow and St. Petersburg. We think that it will be a great international event, of strategic character, and we will do everything we can to project this historic visit. (S)

The President: Thank you. God bless. (U)

President Putin: Thank you, George. Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

(
CONFIDENTIAL